

Amendments in the Specification

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 6 with the following:

The annular surface 11 also includes an annular shaped inner section 12 between the heat seal 10 and internal passage 14. The flange 8 is preferably not joined or otherwise connected to membrane 6, in this inner annular section 12. (Alternatively the membrane can be heat sealed across the full width of the surface”, and this possibility is discussed below).

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 8 with the following:

Once the end 62 of blade 48 is clear of the membrane 6, the butterfly valve member 22 will be located in the gap 66 between the rear end 60 of blade 50 and the base 42 of the cutter 40. The length of the gap 66, is greater than the diameter of the butterfly valve 22 so that the butterfly valve member 22 is at that stage located in a relatively wide recess, rearward of both blades 48 and 50.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 9 with the following:

Once transfer of product has taken place the nut 80 is disconnected from the union 28 and the operator will allow some or sterilising fluids to enter the housing 79 via the inlet 82 so that the steam or sterilising fluid will flush away any product which may remain inside the housing 79.